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Outside the Normative: Other Perspective to the Role of the Paper in the Print Collection of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Complutense University of Madrid

The Complutense University of Madrid is the University with the largest and most important heritage collection in Spain. One of the most special collections inside of this institution is The Prints Collection of the Faculty of Fine Arts.

The history of this centre started in the 1752 with the creation to the Fine Arts Royal Academy of San Fernando. After different avatars, the Royal Academy of San Fernando was divided into different institutions; The Academy of San Fernando and the School of Fine Arts which in 1978 adhered to the Complutense University of Madrid, founded in 1499.

Apart from The Prints Cabinet in the centre, there are also two other collections related to print: The Drawing Cabinet, that includes a digital prints section and the Art Book Cabinet.

The Print Cabinet is composed of more than 4000 ancient, modern and contemporary works by renowned authors such as Durer, Rembrandt and Goya and relevant contemporary authors such as José Luís Alexanco, Mitsuo Miura or Salvador Victoria, making it a fundamental source of studies for the understanding of graphic artwork and its teaching in Spain.

This contribution is connected between the world of Printmaking and the world print history, conservation and restoration in one historical collection. The cause of this scene is the response to the typology of the collection of the Faculty of Fine Arts.

The importance of choosing the ideal paper and the significance of this choice on the final print works will also be discussed using artworks examples.

Key words

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Cabinet Prints

Print

Printmaking

Paper